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SUPER HEROES FROM THE MIND OF
CLIVE BARKER

**HE'S YOUR WORST
NIGHTMARE
MADE REAL...**

HOKUM & HEX

**BLOOD
SHED
IS COMING**

DIRECT EDITION



**PART ONE
OF FOUR**

IN A MIX OF MAGIC, COMEDY AND EXPLOSIVE SUSPENSE, FAILED STAND-UP COMIC TRIP MUNROE HAS BECOME THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST A POWERFUL, EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL OVERLORD — IN OTHER WORDS, EARTH'S LAST, BEST HOPE... IS A JOKE.



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...THE STORM OF A CORPSE
WARRIOR TRAVELING
BETWEEN PARALLEL WORLDS...

...TO EARTH, FROM
THE NEOBYS.

EEEEAAAH!!!

CLIVE BARKER PRESENTS...

HOKUS & HEX

The Look of Revelations

BLOODSHED, Part 1 of 4

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THE CORPFI ARE THE ELITE
RELIGIOUS CRUSADERS
OF THE LORD FELON BALE.
THEY ARE RUTHLESS, DEADLY,
AND EXTREMELY POLITE.

IT'S THE WAY THEY
WERE RAISED.

NOW, IN THIS ABANDONED PROTOTYPE
SUBWAY STATION, BURIED AND FOR-
GOTTEN A CENTURY AGO, THE CORPFI
GATHER 'ROUND FELON BALE'S
CHAMPION AND EMISSARY, BLOODSHED.

... WHO IS RUTHLESS,
DEADLY, AND NOT
PARTICULARLY POLITE.

ATTENTION!
CORPFI!

TRIP MUNROE
DESIGNATED "EARTH'S
CHAMPION" BY GODKIN
STRAITH, HAS ELUDED
YOUR EFFORTS TO
KILL HIM.

THIS
ISN'T
GOOD!

WHY ISN'T
THIS GOOD?

BECAUSE IT
MEANS BLOODSHED
HAS TO DO THEIR JOB
FOR THEM.

OH.
OKAY.

TALKING TO YOURSELF
AGAIN...

WHERE
WAS I?

NO, I
WASN'T.

NOW THEN, YOU
WILL LOCATE AND
RETRIEVE TRIP
MUNROE'S SCAT-
TERED, GOD-
ENHANCED TAROT
CARDS...

... AND USE
THEM AS DOORWAYS
TO ESTABLISH HOLY
BEACHHEADS ON
EARTH!

I WILL NOW
KILL MUNROE--AND
FIND GORKILL
CORPUS, LEADER OF
YOUR FIRST EXPEDI-
TIONARY FORCE.

IF HE IS DEAD,
I WILL RETURN HIS
BODY TO THE NEOBYS
FOR BURIAL...

... AND IF HE IS ALIVE, HE MUST DIE FOR FAILING, AND THUS DELAYING, THIS CRUSADE.



...NOPE, NOPE, NOPE, I'M SORRY, BUT THIS SIMPLY WILL NOT DO!

GIMCHER IS RIGHT! THIS IS SIMPLY NOT HOW IT'S DONE!

NO COMMITTEES!!

W-W-WOOOOOHHH

FWASH!

FWASH!

SSSS SSSS SSSS SSSS

ENOUGH OF THIS!

YOU ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO ARGUE WITH ME!

YES, I WAS ONLY A MERE HUMAN UNTIL RECENTLY...

YES, I WAS
ONLY A MERE
HUMAN UNTIL
RECENTLY...

... BUT FELON
BALE HAS PUT ME
IN CHARGE, AND I
AM ONE OF YOU
IN SPIRIT!

I GUESS
WE ARE THEN,
TOO.

OF COURSE
WE ARE!

ENOUGH OF THIS!

YOU ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO ARGUE WITH ME!

YES, I WAS ONLY A MERE HUMAN UNTIL RECENTLY...

... BUT FELON BALE HAS PUT ME IN CHARGE, AND I AM ONE OF YOU IN SPIRIT!

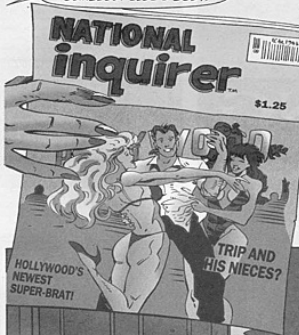
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OF COURSE WE ARE!

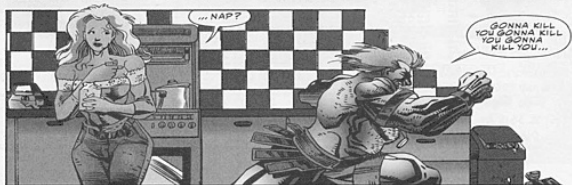


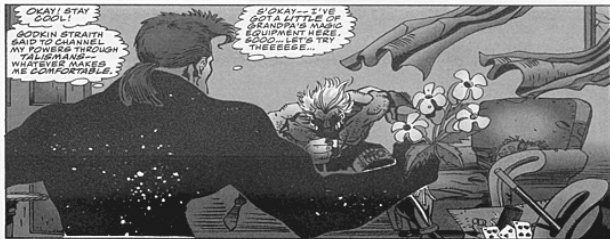


... ONE OF THOSE TABLOIDS.
I THINK THEY PUT YOUR FACE ON
SOMEBODY ELSE'S BODY.











STOP!
I, UH,
COMMAND
YOU A
EARTH'S
CHAMPION!

WELL,
IT WAS
WORTH A
TRY!

OKAY, THEN--
NOW ABOUT IF
I JUST WHACK
YOU WITH A...

ZORKS!
JUST GRAZED
HIM! MUST
STILL BE
SLEEPY!

NO, I'M NOT
I'M HOLDING
BACK! WHY THE
FLIXAR AM I
HOLDING BACK?

... CLUB!
OH, G'MONNN,
NOT THAT KIND
OF CLUB! HEY! THE
EDGES LOOK SHARP!
WHAT? IF I...

WHOOOOO!
... STOP THINKING
AND START
ATTACKING...?



COME ON!
YOU'RE A
CORPUS!
END IT!

LISTEN TO ME,
MUNDOE! YOU'RE NOT
DOING EARTH ANY
FAVORS. YOUR PLANET'S
BASED ON THE WRONG
IDEA...

... THAT YOU
OPERATE ON FREE
WILL! IT'S NOT LIKE
THAT! WE ALL-- HEY!
STOP THROWING
THINGS!

SORRY, BUT I'VE
GOT THIS SABRETOOTHED
RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTAL-
IST TRYING TO KILL
ME!

FUNDA--? OHNN,
AND I SUPPOSE YOU'RE
A THEOLOGICAL
SCHOLAR?

LOOK, I'D BE
THE FIRST TO ADMIT
FELON BALE'S NOT
A PERFECT GOD...

BUT A MOUSE ISN'T
HUMAN! IT ISN'T CAPABLE
OF ABSTRACT REASONING!
HEY!!

STOP GIBBLING
WITH MY ANALOGY!

THE POINT IS,
YOU'RE DELUDING
YOURSELVES...

... AND THE SOONER YOU ACCEPT
THAT ALL "DECISIONS" ARE PRE-
DETERMINED AND PREDICTABLE...

YEAH? PREDICT
THIS!

... BUT HE'S
RIGHT! FREE WILL
IS AN ILLUSION! CHOICE
DOESN'T EXIST!

WE ONLY REACT
THE WAY WE'RE PRO-
GRAMMED TO. PUT
FIRE NEAR A MOUSE
IT'LL ALWAYS JUMP
BACK! IT HAS NO
CHOICE!

EASILY, YOU HAD
NO CHOICE BUT
TO DO THAT.

THAT DOESN'T
PROVE YOUR
POINT!





"...OUR NEWSREEL CAMERAS
ON THE VALIANT AXIS DEFEND-
ING LONDON DURING THE NAZIS'
CONVARDLY BLITZ..."



BALDWIN HARBOR,
LONG ISLAND

"...AS AMERICA'S SUPERHEROIC
'HYPERKIND' CONTINUE TO HELP
THE WAR EFFORT OVERSEAS!

THIS IS ED
HERLIHY FOR
THE MARCH
OF TIME...



THANK
YOU, SAM.

THIS MEETING OF THE LONG
ISLAND BRANCH OF THE FAITHFUL
WILL COME TO ORDER!

CHUCK, WE'RE
TEN OLD PEOPLE
WITH A RARE,
SUPPRESSED NEWS-
REEL. WHY ARE
YOU ALWAYS
SO FORMAL?

BECAUSE AMBERTRANCE WANTS
IT THAT WAY! BECAUSE THE FEW OF
US WHO REMEMBER THE
SHINING PATH ARE
RESPONSIBLE
KEEPERS OF HISTORY.*

* SEE CURRENT ISSUES
OF HYPERKIND! -- MARG



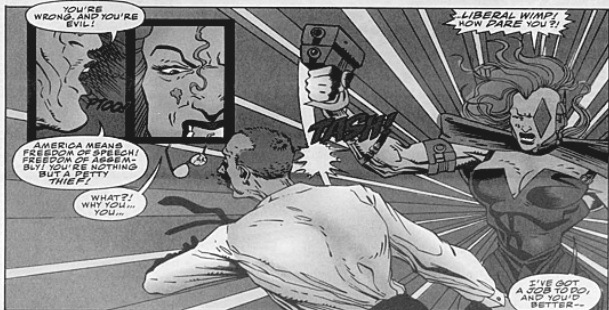
SUPER HEROES--
HYPERKIND--TRULY
EXISTED!

AND EVEN IF
WE HAVE TO STAY
SECRET TO AVOID
PERSECUTION, WE
WILL PROPERLY KEEP
THE FLAME ALIVE!

EVEN IF THAT
MEANS YOU'RE
DEAD?

SH-PRASHHH!

NOOOOO!



ELSEWHERE, A
UNIVERSE AWAY...

ON A WORLD CALLED THE NEOBYS,
THIS IS CALLED THE PIT.

THE NAME IS AN AFFECTIONATE
ONE FOR ON THE NEOBYS -- A
WORLD OF RELIGIOUS ENCLAVES
AND GAMBLING DENS -- THIS IS
THE INNER GANGLUM OF GODKIN
STRAITH...

...KNOWN ALLOVER
THE DECARANDI
HAS PARTYN
DEMI-GOD.

A WONDERFUL
ASSEMBLAGE
TONIGHT. IT DOES
MY HEART GOOD
--AND MY
SUPPORT, EVEN
BETTER.

SUCH A NICE
ALTERNATIVE TO
FELON BALE'S
RUTHLESS
RELIGION.
GAMES ARE A
MUCH MORE
POTENT SOURCE
OF FAITH THAN
PRAYER.

AND THIS NEW
BELIEF-SYSTEM
OF MINE CONTINUES
TO DRAW MEMBERS.
I'VE EVEN TEMPTED
BALE INTO A GAME--
NOT THAT HE'S
AWARE!

A GOD!
UNWARE--
I LOVE
IT!

BALE HAD TO RESPOND
TO SOLON REY'S UNAUTHORIZED
PRESENCE ON EARTH... HAD TO
CREATE A CHAMPION MORE
BRUTAL THAN HIS CORPUS.

IT WAS HIS ONLY
POSSIBLE MOVE. I'VE
FORCED HIM INTO A
TACTICAL ERROR...

...ONE THAT
WILL CONVINCE THE
TEN TRUE GODS THAT
ONE OF THEIR OWN
IS UNFIT...

...WHILE I GUIDE
MY OWN CHAMPION, TRIP
MUNROE, TO THE FIELD OF
WIRE, WHERE HE WILL
BECOME ONE OF MY
AVATARS...

...EITHER
"THE MAGICIAN"
...OR "THE
FOOL"!









...SO AFTER I GOT THE DOCTOR ON THE PHONE, HE PROMISED HE'D RUN AN MRI SCAN TOMORROW. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE.

THANKS AGAIN, GORKILL.

AND Y'KNOW-- OUT OF ALL THIS TRAGEDY, MAYBE SOMETHING GOOD HAS COME OUT OF IT... SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

I MEAN-- YOU'RE A REPRESENTATIVE OF A WHOLE 'NOTHER WORLD THIS IS, LIKE, COLUMBUS SAILING TO AMERICA.

THIS COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF A WHOLE NEW ERA-- AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN TWO ACTUAL PLANETS...!

SHAK!

YOU'VE BEEN QUIET, SOL. WHAT'S THE MATTER? DOESN'T THIS PETENTE SQUARE WITH YOUR --

--PLANS...? SOL...?

I'M SORRY, MUNROE. I REALLY AM TRULY AM...

...BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE.

YOU JUST
HAVEN'T CONVINCED
ME. I WAS RAISED IN
FELON BALE'S RELIGION,
AND I'M NOT QUITE
READY TO LEAVE
IT.

BUT I WANT YOU
TO KNOW... YOU'RE AN
HONORABLE SOLDIER.
I PLEDGE I'LL MAKE
THIS QUICK AND
PAINLESS.

GORK!
GORK!
GORK!

GORKILL?
YOU'RE
GORKILL?

THIS IS GOOD!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING
FOR YOU!

AND HERE YOU
ARE, WITH THE
OTHER PERSON I
HAVE TO KILL.

WELL, HE'S FOUND
THEM. NOW WHAT'S
BLOODSHED GOING
TO DO?

OH, THERE'S
ALL SORTS OF
WAYS TO KILL
THEM. WATCH!

EXCUSE ME...
WHERE WAS I?
OH, YES.
HELLO.

IT
LOOKS LIKE
A TWO-FOR-
ONE BLAY!

NEXT: SACRIFICES!

PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
RAZORLINE
c/o MARVEL
387 PARK AVE. SO.
NEW YORK, NY 10016

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MALCOLM SMITH • CONSULTING
EDITOR

HOKUM & HEX

the thing from new jersey

The scenario was a weekend in Ocean City, New Jersey, where Frank Lovece (HOKUM & HEX), Paris Cullins, Bob Petrecca (HYPERKIND), Elaine Lee and Larry Brown (SAINT SINNER) and myself were to gather for a stop on the RAZORLINE tour. Bob picked us up in Philadelphia, and all we buckled down for the long drive. And we had a little fun along the way.

the road trip

As Frank broke into song with an off-key Bobby Darin duo with Paris, it reminded me of the RAZORLINE conference in August, wherein a batch of strangers gathered for the first time and spoke with one mind toward magic. Even the Ectokid crew, a little weary from a foray into Tajujana the night before, rose to the challenge and made contributions to the amazing crossover we've formed for next spring. This car trip was a remnant of that, but one I hoped would be repeated often in the upcoming RAZORLINE tour, as the RAZORLINE creators crisscross the country anxiously getting your feedback directly and giving you sneak peeks into upcoming dolms.

"This is great, you know?" Frank said, surrendering the song only long enough for the windshield to stop vibrating. "You've done what few others have done. You've forged a team."

not me

I wish I could take credit for that, I really do. But I just picked these guys, and not even by myself; while my instinct narrowed the field, it was Clive and Malcolm's guidance that led me specifically to them, and their own desire to be part of something of quality that made them stand out.

No, I just helped put them together. They made themselves a team. And that's where the magic really starts.

Dear HOKUM & HEX,

What can I say about HOKUM & HEX? I laughed, I laughed, and I laughed some more. That's what I like to see: serious storytelling with a sense of humor. HOKUM & HEX is a fun comic to read. The preview was especially good. Banana peel. Good one.

Here's a suggestion: throw a few good one-liners in here and there. I think that would be something to look forward to every issue. Although I look forward to every issue anyway. But too much humor can be a bad thing. Just keep up the good work.

Doug Achert
29 East Adams Street
East Islip, NY 11730

You think the banana was a gag.

Doug? No such luck, bub! That scene was actually an insightful look at the plight of planets with purple fruit.

Dear Hexers,

I just want to write in and say that this book, like very few before it, is etching out a new kind of comic. HOKUM & HEX is like no other book I've ever read. I mean, it's got a real story, and there's comedy. It's not all fun and games, but it does have laughs. In today's comic book world of grim avengers and dark crusaders, it's amazing to have Trip Munroe. But it's more than just having comedy. That's been done before. Beneath all of the gags, HOKUM & HEX is facing challenges and growing as a character. In a very short time, you've rendered Trip as a character who manages to get into the reader's head and stay there. I'll often buy five or so comics at a time, and most of them are forgotten about ten minutes after I've put them down. Not HOKUM & HEX. It's been the one I pick up the next day and reread. Just to keep it fresh. I want to tell you all what an over-the-top job you're doing. I'm addicted to HOKUM & HEX! This reader is eager each month to get the next fix.

David Sanders
43 North Henry Street
Brooklyn, NY 11222

Take solace in the fact that you're not alone, David. Since the Razortline began, there seems to be a much higher rate of comic book addiction in the comic book community! We have found no long-term detox system, but we do have a short-term remedy. Pick up the other three Razortline titles, SAINT SINNER, HYPERKIND and ECTOKID, and read them! It won't make HOKUM & HEX any less addictive, but it will make the time between reading issues less painful.

Dear Razortline,

Time was when the world was simple. Then you had to make it complicated by offering four books which are all worth buying. And that's the problem. It's so good. I've been buying multiple copies, not for how valuable they will be in time, but to give to friends.

My favorite is HOKUM & HEX. Will Trip ever meet the rest of the Razortline crew? I think it would be great to have him swapping wisecracks with the HYPERKIND, or maybe trying to swap jokes with Philip Feller (SAINT SINNER).

Don't stop spinning the great ideas. The books are just as they should be. I'm standing by. Let the stories continue.

Mitch Everglade
43 Cone Street
Arlington, MA 02174

The stories are still spinning. Mitch, 'round and 'round, faster and faster... sheesh, I'm dizzy. The things we've got to put up with in this office! Thanks for tuning in new readers, Mitch. We never

mind a reader passing along an issue or three to friends.

Razortline rules!!

I have always relished losing myself in the pages of Clive's books. Just finished *Amalgam* for the third time and must say this comic line is just what the doctor ordered!!

While many people write in to tell you what they want to see, here's all I have to demand: just keep doing it your way, because if it's not broke, don't fix it!!

Nuff said!

But for god's sake, don't mess it up by bringing DEATHLOK or the FANTASTIC FOUR into the picture. While I love these titles too, I want the Barkerverse to be completely of itself and of its own; pure Barker!

I collect all of the Razortline titles and always will until SPIDER-MAN shows up. So keep my audience by sticking to the characters. And I want new titles!

Basically all I'm saying is keep on keeping on, because I have absolutely no complaints whatsoever.

Ray Lilley
P.O. box 135
Calico Rock, AR 72519

You have some interesting things to say, Ray. Thanks for taking the time to tell us what you think. We always want to hear. As for new titles... they're on the way. Stay tuned!

NEXT:

The Death of Trip Munroe! (Now, do you want to be here, or what?!)

CUTTING EDGE ALERT!

Next week in
SAINT SINNER #6:

The origin of the mysteriously powerful refuge from the Ectosphere, Crooked-Face Half-Head, on the eve of a disaster that will shake all the worlds of the Decamundi — but the price of averting it may be a child's life!

ELSEWHERE, ALONG THE RAZOR'S EDGE:

HYPERKIND #7:

Armata's near death and her only hope of survival is a riddle locked within a children's rhyme! Will its final solution bring triumph — or tragedy?!

ECTOKID #7:

At last! Armed with the location of the Aurat, Dex confronts Ice and Tom Augustine! Will he trade the unlimited power of the Aurat for the life of his mother?